

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9936

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 8977

DEPARTMENT PASS ALL EEC CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PORG, ID

SUBJECT: EAST TIMOR QUESTION

REF: (A) LISBON 4404, (B) CANBERRA 4786, (C) MAPUTO 0784,
(D) USUN 2628, (E) STATE 156112, (F) BISSAU 0704, (G) USUN 02740

1. FRETILIN AND ITS SUPPORTERS APPEAR TO HAVE STARTED A CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE WORLD OPINION IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORHTCOMING UNGA AND A RENEWED DISCUSSION OF THE EAST TIMOR QUESTION. WE NOTE FROM REFTELS THAT FRETILIN HAS EVEN CLAIMED THAT AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISORS ARE PRESENT ON THE GOI SIDE OF EAST TIMOR, A FACT THAT HAS BEEN CATEGORICALLY DENIED HERE AND ELSEWHERE. THERE ARE NO REPEAT NO U.S. ADVISORS OF ANY KIND IN EAST TIMOR.

2. FRETILIN CLAIMS THAT THEY ARE DEFEATING GOI FORCES

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IN EAST TIMOR AND THAT THEY CONTROL MOST OF THE AREA ARE ALSO CONTRARY TO FACT, AND MAY RESULT FROM AN AWARENESS BY FRETILIN THAT THEIR POSITION IN EAST TIMOR IS ERODING. THE GOI BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 600 TO 1000 HARD-CORE MEMBERS OF FRETILIN IN EAST TIMOR AND SEVERAL THOUSAND MORE TIMORESE EITHER WILLINGLY OR UNWILLINGLY PRESENT IN FRETILIN CONTROLLED AREAS. THESE FIGURES ARE

ACCEPTED BY AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND OTHER NATIONS IN THE REGION WHICH FOLLOWS EVENTS IN EAST TIMOR CLOSELY. THE GOI EXPECTS CONTINUED SMALL-SCALE HARASSMENT FOR SOME TIME TO COME BUT FEARS NO REAL THREAT FROM FRETELIN, WHOSE STRENGTH AND POPULAR SUPPORT ARE STEADILY DECLINING.

3. FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE RECENTLY VISITED EAST TIMOR HAVE CONFIRMED THAT GOI IS IN ACTUAL CONTROL OF MAIN AREAS OF THE PROVINCE AND IS ACTIVELY MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION, WITH LOCAL EAST TIMORESE HOLDING MOST CIVILIAN POSITIONS. WE BELIEVE THE AREA WILL BE OPENED TO SOME OUT-SIDE VISITORS WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. MEANWHILE, THE USG HAS ACCEPTED THE ABSORPTION OF EAST TIMOR INTO INDONESIA AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI, AND WE HAVE DECLARED OUR BELIEF THAT THE BEST ROUTE IS TO BAND THE EFFORTS OF THE UN AND INDIVIDUAL NATIONS TOWARDS HELPING THE TIMORESE IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT.
MASTERS

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